

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-55. (cancelled)

56. (New) An expression vector that comprises an expression cassette, wherein said cassette comprises a promoter operably linked to a polynucleotide from which is transcribed a nucleic acid; and

wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises an aptamer and a polynucleotide that encodes a transcriptional regulatory polypeptide, and wherein binding of a ligand to said aptamer inhibits translation of said transcriptional regulatory polypeptide; and

wherein said expression vector further comprises a second polynucleotide, wherein transcription of said second polynucleotide is regulated by said transcriptional regulatory polypeptide.

57. (New) The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the second polynucleotide encodes a therapeutic polypeptide.

58. (New) The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the second polynucleotide is operably linked to a binding site for the transcriptional regulatory polypeptide.

59. (New): The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the ligand is a cell-permeable small organic molecule.

60. (New): The expression vector of claim 59, wherein the ligand is Hoechst dye 33258.

61. (New): The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the ligand is a metal ion.
62. (New): The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the ligand is an antibiotic.
63. (New): The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the ligand is a steroid.
64. (New): The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the transcriptional regulatory polypeptide is a repressor.
65. (New): The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the transcriptional regulatory polypeptide is a transcriptional activator.
66. (New): The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the transcriptional regulatory polypeptide is a coactivator.
67. (New): The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the transcriptional regulatory polypeptide comprises a DNA-binding domain.
68. (New): The expression vector of claim 67, wherein the DNA-binding domain is that of a protein selected from the group consisting of E2F-1, GAL4, a STAT ("Signal Transducer and Activator of Transcription") protein, a steroid/thyroid receptor protein, a Cys2-His2 zinc finger DNA binding motif, and a tetracycline repressor.
69. (New): The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the transcriptional regulatory polypeptide comprises a transcriptional repressor domain.
70. (New): The expression vector of claim 69, wherein the transcriptional repressor domain is that of a protein selected from the group consisting of Rb protein, v-erbA, retinoic acid receptor alpha, thyroid hormone receptor alpha, yeast Ssn6/Tup1 protein complex, SIR1, NeP1, TSF3, SFI, WT1, Oct-2.1, E4BP4, KRAB and ZF5.

71. (New): The expression vector of claim 69, wherein the transcriptional repressor domain is that of p53.

72. (New): The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the transcriptional regulatory polypeptide comprises a transcriptional activation domain.

73. (New): The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the expression vector is a viral vector.

74. (New): The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenoviral vector, a retroviral vector, and an adeno-associated viral vector.

75. (New): The expression vector of claim 56, wherein the expression vector is a nonviral vector.

76. (New) An isolated cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises an aptamer and a polynucleotide that encodes a transcriptional regulatory polypeptide; and wherein binding of a ligand to the aptamer inhibits translation of said transcriptional regulatory polypeptide; and wherein said cell further comprises a second polynucleotide, wherein transcription of said second polynucleotide is regulated by said transcriptional regulatory polypeptide.

77. (New) The cell of claim 76, wherein the second polynucleotide is included in the nucleic acid.

78. (New) The cell of claim 76, wherein transcription of the second polynucleotide yields an antisense nucleic acid.

79. (New) The cell of claim 76, wherein the second polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide.

80. (New) The cell of claim 76, wherein the polypeptide is a therapeutic polypeptide.

81. (New) The cell of claim 76, wherein the therapeutic polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a toxin, a cytokine, a kinase, a phosphatase, a transcriptional regulatory protein, an antibody, and a tumor suppressor.

82. (New) The cell of claim 76, wherein the polypeptide is a tumor suppressor.

83. (New) The cell of claim 76, wherein the tumor suppressor is p53.